



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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October 22, 1997

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer *aa*

RE: Site Inspection, Uintah Mountain Copper Company, Sunshine Hematite Claims, S/013/002, Duchesne County, Utah

Date of Inspection: September 17, 1997  
Time of Inspection: 1217 - 1315  
Conditions: Fair and cool  
Participants: Chauncie Todd, Harv Skjerven, and Clarice, US Forest Service; Tony Gallegos, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To familiarize Division staff with the site and examine the work performed at the site this past year.

The site is accessed by passing through a locked gate on a side road off the main Forest Service road. The Forest Service and mine operators have keys for the gate. Part of the access road behind the gate is a road that could be retained by the Forest Service after mining operations are complete. For the time being, this road is considered part of the mine operations, although the road is covered under a separate surface rights agreement. The road ends at the mine site located on a steep mountain slope. An item to note regarding the access road off the main Forest Service road is that the access road was in a separate special use permit. In addition, the mine operator has a small camp along this access road which was treated under another special use permit. According to Mr. Todd, the special use permit for the camp has been canceled and the Forest Service has requested removal of the structures, although a deadline for completion of this removal was not stated.

At the mine site the hematite deposit is located in isolated bands or lenses. The mine operator has performed some drilling to delineate the ore body. Photographs were taken of the recent mining cuts made along old road spurs. These photos include the road switchback and gabions. The gabions have been installed to support the steep bank between the switchbacks.

At this site there is minimal topsoil which would be difficult to salvage due to the steepness of the terrain. In addition, there is no room to store the limited topsoil which could be salvaged. The main market for this ore is for use in pigments such as paint or makeup.

At the present time the Forest Service does not have a reclamation bond in place. This mine site is within the line of sight from within the Uintah Wilderness Area. The mine disturbance is a collection of road cuts and switchbacks at the end of the access road. On the way out of the site we stopped briefly at the mine camp, which the operator has been requested to move. At this time there were several structures located in the camp area.

jb

cc: Mike Kandarlis, Uintah Mountain Copper  
Chauncie Todd, USFS







